

ERATIONS GROUP FILE

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL 121837Z JAN 79 STAFF

CITE FBIS/LONDON 10800

TO: FBIS [REDACTED]

JAN 12 2 27 PM '79

25X1

25X1

1. INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING [REDACTED] SINCE LATE NOVEMBER.

25X1

2. BBC HAS JUST BEEN APPROACHED BY [REDACTED] WITH OFFER TO BUY ENTIRE BBC NEWS FILE. THEY WANT PRESS AGENCY AS WELL AS ALL VOICE MATERIALS. RAE OFFERED THEM SWB ALSO BUT THEY SAID THEY ALREADY GET SWB, FROM [REDACTED] LITTLE BACKGROUND [REDACTED] AVAILABLE HERE, BUT JOHN RAE BELIEVES THEY ARE INDEPENDENT NEWS AGENCY WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED BY FORMER UPI EMPLOYEES WHEN UPI CLOSED ITS [REDACTED] OFFICE SOME YEARS AGO. THEY APPROACHED BBC ONCE BEFORE IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN FILE BUT WERE THEN UNABLE TO MEET RATHER MODEST CHARGES FOR THE SERVICE. THIS TIME THEY HAVE NOT BLINKED AT AN ASKING PRICE OF 17,000 POUNDS STERLING AND MENTIONED THAT THEY WOULD LEASE A DEDICATED LINE FROM CAVERSHAM [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. SINCE BBC NEWS FILE WOULD GIVE [REDACTED] CREAM OF FBIS AS WELL AS BBC OUTPUT, RAE AND I WERE LED TO SPECULATE THAT THEIR OFFER (AND THEIR APPARENT NEW-FOUND WEALTH) MIGHT MASK MANEUVER [REDACTED] TO SALVAGE MATERIALS THAT WILL BE LOST IF FBIS CUTS BACK ITS FILE AND POSSIBLY EVEN PUT [REDACTED] IN A POSITION TO BACK OUT OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH FBIS ALTOGETHER. NEEDLESS TO SAY, GIVEN BBC'S CHRONIC BUDGET WORRIES, RAE IS STRONGLY INTERESTED IN TESTING SINCERITY OF [REDACTED] OFFER.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

4. JUST BEFORE HOLIDAYS RAE PHONED [REDACTED] TO SEE ABOUT SETTING UP VISIT [REDACTED] STATED THAT IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR RAE TO TRAVEL [REDACTED] AS NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN ON EITHER BBC'S OR FBIS' REQUESTS UNTIL AFTER THE [REDACTED] COMPLETES ITS INVESTIGATION. THIS IS EXPECTED IN MARCH OR APRIL. RAE MENTIONED THE FBIS PLAN TO CUT BACK ON THE FILE [REDACTED] REMARKED THAT HE "COULDN'T

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 2 FBIS/LONDON 10800 C O N F I D E N T I A L

AGREE TO THAT," BUT OFFERED NO ELABORATION. RAE PHONED [REDACTED] 25X1
AGAIN TODAY AND CAUTIOUSLY BROUGHT UP [REDACTED] OFFER. HE SAYS 25X1
THAT [REDACTED] SEEMED GENUINELY UNAWARE OF [REDACTED] INTEREST IN THE 25X1
BBC FILE AND AT FIRST THOUGHT RAE WANTED TO BUY [REDACTED] PRODUCT 25X1
RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. [REDACTED] SAID [REDACTED] SEES 25X1
THE [REDACTED] PRODUCT BUT DOESN'T USE IT. HE WAS UNABLE TO ACCOUNT 25X1
FOR [REDACTED] APPARENTLY STRONG FINANCIAL SITUATION, BUT ADDED THAT
[REDACTED] SEEMED TO BE DOING PRETTY WELL AND IS BEING QUOTED WITH FAIR 25X1
REGULARITY IN THE PRESS. HE SAID THAT HIS OWN FINANCIAL
SITUATION WAS UNCHANGED AND AGAIN URGED PATIENCE UNTIL MARCH/
APRIL WHEN THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION OR THOUGHTS YOU MAY
HAVE ON ABOVE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING IF HQS STILL
INTENDS TO CUT BACK FILE [REDACTED] AFTER ONE FEBRUARY. WE HAVE 25X1
RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS AND PREPARATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE
MADE WELL IN ADVANCE.

6. BBC REQUESTS THAT FCS PROVIDE LIST OF THOSE PRESS
AGENCIES WITH WHICH FBIS HAS CONTRACTS WHICH ALLOW FOR UN-
RESTRICTED DISSEMINATION OF MONITORED AGENCY MATERIALS.

7. RVW 12 JAN 99, DRV D9C.3
C O N F I D E N T I A L

CONFIDENTIAL